

# SPARK GAP

## M A R C

### Annual Goblin Patrol a "Howling" Success

The annual Goblin Patrol of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club, a net conducted by the club, took place on the night of October 31st. The net was on the air from 7 P.M. until 9 P.M.

The net is just one of the club's many activities throughout the year. It is conducted to assist the Johnson County Sheriff's Department by providing extra people to patrol various areas such as cemeteries, churches, schools, and overpasses in rural areas of the county, or any other location where vandalism has a higher potential to happen.

We used the club's repeater frequency of 146.835 MHZ for FM VOICE communication, with the PL tone turned off during the net for those operators who do not have PL tone capabilities, and we had APRS operational at a frequency of 144.390 MHZ for tracking purposes only.

During the two-hour period, we had 12 stations check in with the net operator. Seven check-ins were mobile, while the remaining five reported as fixed stations. All the stations remained operational for the entire two-hour period.

-KB9TEO

### Wednesday Night Group to Adjourn for the Holidays.

The Wednesday Night Supper Group will be concluding its meetings for the year with its get together at the Little Mexico Restaurant on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

The group will begin meeting again on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001 at the Olive Garden. For more information on this or other Supper Group events, ID and press "5" on the 146.835 WA9RDF repeater.

Have a great holiday from all of us in the Wednesday Night Supper Group!

-KF9LQ

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November, 2000

## The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

### Membership

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club is based in Franklin, Indiana. Membership is open to all amateur radio operators and other interested persons.

Club meetings are conducted on the third Saturday of each month in the training room of the Johnson County Emergency Operations Center at 1100 Hospital Road in Franklin, IN.

Membership dues are \$18.00 per year for full members. Other types of membership are available.

Amateur Radio Operator License testing is offered following the club meeting during the months of March through November.

The club maintains an open repeater on the 2-meter band at 146.835 MHz. Each full member has access to the repeater and autopatch. Membership dues payment and change of address should be mailed to the club treasurer at the address listed below.

### Newsletter

The Spark Gap is the monthly club newsletter. Articles and information that would be of interest to the club members are welcome. Information may be submitted by E-mail or by mailing to the club address listed below.

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(W8ISH)

JR Osborne  
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Larry Turner  
(KB9PWN)

Al Soltis  
(WA9ZET)

**Activities**  
Jack Parker  
(W8ISH)

Bob LaGrange  
(N9SIU)

Other

Appointments

Pending

**Membership**  
Larry Turner  
(KB9PWN)

Bill Goodall  
(K9DBY)

Other

Appointments

Pending



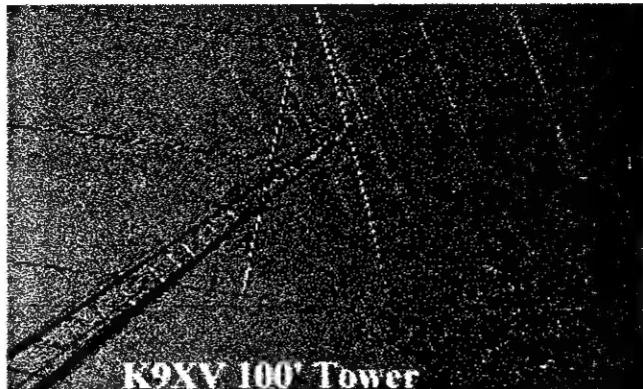
**MARC, PO Box 836, Franklin, IN 46131**

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# Contesting offers Multifaceted Challenges to Ham Radio

By: C. W. Crist



**K9XV 100' Tower**

Can you find all 8 antennas?

October each year brings some very challenging times to Amateur Radio all over the world as Hams participate in the CQ World Wide Contest. The concept is simple: Make as many contacts in as many countries and as many ITU zones as possible in 48 hours using Phone privileges.

While rules are short, simple and well published; the actual event takes a lot of pre planning and preparation. Most contestants today use computer logging programs to keep track of the contacts made, dupe contacts and to display a current or running total of points. 120,000 points isn't unusual for the serious ham today.

Say you are interested? ... Ok imagine, putting together a single OP (operator) single tower station for the contest and you have just a month to get the tower up (90 feet is ok), but the higher the better. Then you have a new radio just in to the shack, and the Contest software that you've never used before and the interface of all these things must come together like a well oiled machine, in time to make the show on the 4th week end in October (if you're operating the phone contest) or in March if your into CW (code) contesting.

If you do well you might just make one of the several categories that is awarded by the contests sponsor, CQ Magazine. If you think contesting is just a braggers hobby then take a look at the "HALL of FAME" listed on the CQWW.com page on the Internet. Pretty impressive credentials and resumes on this listing! Now; if you really get hooked on this part of Ham radio, you might find yourself off on one of the many expeditions that some of the contestants participate in each year. Now you're really in the prep. and travel leagues of the most challenging and exciting hobby on the planet!.

For more information on CONTESTING go to: <http://www.cqww.com/>

- W9IH

## Upcoming Forum to Focus on Building Better Clubs.

"Building Better Clubs" is the topic for the IRCC forum being held at the Ft. Wayne Hamfest. Jack Parker-W8ISH will present results from three statewide workshops held this year. Jack will lead a discussion on how to improve amateur radio clubs and get hams back to being "radio active". The workshops have stressed the need for better communications between club officials and their members. The key word has been commitment. All amateur radio operators must make a commitment to participate in the hobby before there is no hobby or no radio spectrum to enjoy.

A recent mailing from the ARRL President Jim Haynie W5JPB highlights the serious threat facing our hobby today. According to Jim

Haynie, "New uses for radio spectrum are being conceived every day, and big money is behind them. Some of these ideas will benefit humankind. Some will benefit a few investors. Many will fail to do either. All will compete for access to spectrum that is already fully allocated to incumbent radio services, including the amateur and amateur-satellite services."

The threat is real. Your commitment to make amateur radio active again must be real too. The IRCC forum begins at 11a.m. Sunday November 19th in the Red Room at the Ft. Wayne Hamfest. All opinions are welcome.

**-W8ISH**

**"It often takes more courage to change one's opinion than to stick to it."**

Geoffrey F. Abert



**Can you spot all the differences?**

Answers on back page

**-KF9LQ**

## Coming soon: First ham operation from ISS

Amateur Radio is poised to mark an historic milestone. Operation from Amateur Radio's first permanent foothold in space is expected to debut soon after the all-ham Expedition 1 crew arrives November 2 aboard the International Space Station.

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station—or ARISS—initial station gear already is aboard the ISS awaiting the arrival of Expedition 1 Commander and US astronaut Bill Shepherd, KD5GSL, and Russian Cosmonauts Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, and Yuri Gidzenko. The equipment includes VHF and UHF hand-held transceivers as well as a TNC for packet, a specially developed headset and signal adapter module plus power adapters and interconnecting cables.

The Expedition 1 crew is set to blast off aboard a Russian Soyuz rocket October 31 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan and will arrive aboard the ISS a couple of days later. Once on board, the crew will begin a four-month stay aboard the ISS—the first permanent occupancy of the international complex.

Two US call signs have been issued for Amateur Radio operations as part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program. The FCC granted vanity call signs NA1SS and NN1SS to the International Space Station Amateur Radio Club on October 11. The NA1SS call sign will be used on board the ISS, while NN1SS will be for ground-based ISS communications from Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. A Russian call sign, RZ3DZR, and a German call sign, DL0ISS, also have been issued for use aboard the ISS. Still to be determined are the frequencies for ARISS and an operating schedule. A decision on both is expected soon, along with QSL information. The initial station gear will be installed temporarily in the Zarya Functional Cargo Block of the ISS and will permit operation only on 2 meters—FM voice and packet. The ARISS Team anticipates multiband, multimode operations with the crew and regularly scheduled school group contacts.

For more information about Amateur Radio on the ISS and SAREX, visit the ARISS Web site, <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/>.

*-ARRL Bulletin ARLS014*

## From the Desk of the Vice President:

I think KB9TEO-Chuck did an excellent job as Net Control for the Goblin Patrol.

I would like to discuss Weather Nets at our next meeting if time allows. I will bring it up at the officers meeting and see if our President agrees.

I hope everyone got a chance to vote. CUL

*-N9DON*

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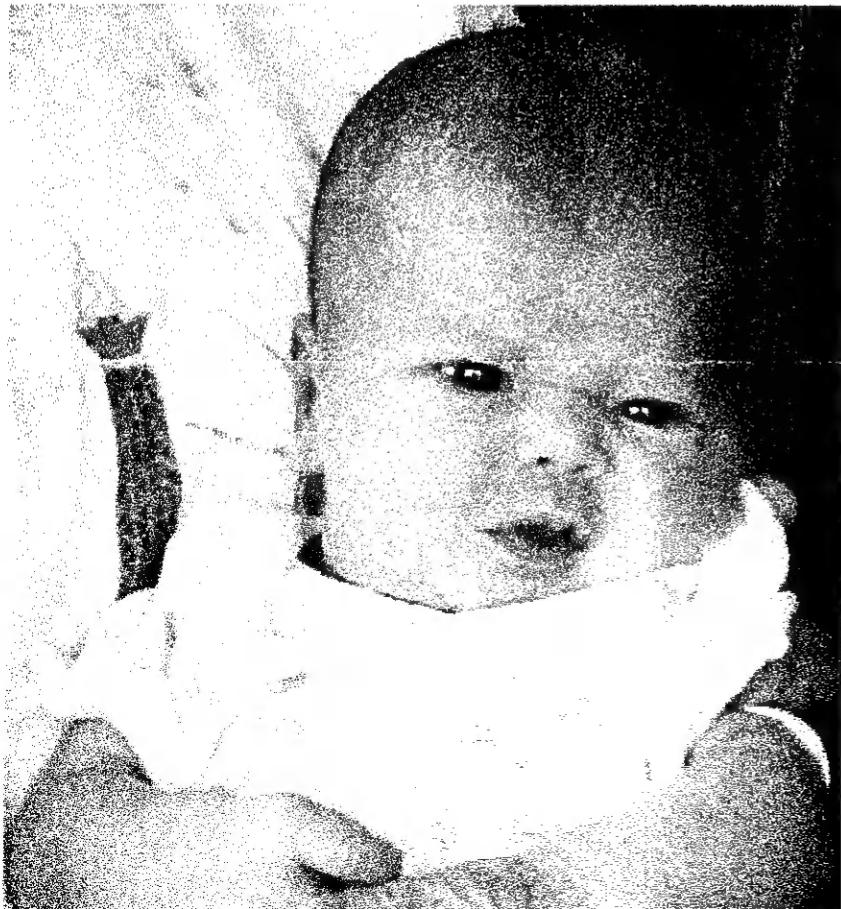
## Can you spot all the differences?

Answers from Page 4

- 1) Antenna on HT Longer
- 2) Barb's Shoes
- 3) 3 Flowers in Picture
- 4) Certificate in Shack is Different
- 5) Pictures are different
- 6) Sign over door

Thanks for the great drawing,  
Joe!

Next Month: A Christmas theme.



## A Future Ham?

Congratulations to Dave and Paulette Wendt (KA9OOH and KB9SRC) on the birth of their Grandson, Wyatt Joseph Causemaker.

Wyatt was born on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm.

Mother and child are both at home, and doing well.

Is it too late to enroll him in the upcoming amateur radio classes, Dave? ☺